

carcinoma from a surgical stand-point, which is a long and careful study from the laboratory of the hospital, and is finely illustrated, as indeed is the entire volume, by numerous carefully executed drawings. The entire volume will amply repay careful reading.

JOHN H. JOFSON.

DISEASE OF THE PANCREAS: ITS CAUSE AND NATURE. By EUGENE L. OPIE, M.D., Associate in Pathology in the Johns Hopkins University, etc. Pp. 359. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1903.

It is only within a very few years that the pancreas has been regarded as of sufficient importance to merit special study, although as far back as 1869 Langerhans pointed out peculiarities in its structure that should have served to attract careful investigation. Its contribution to the digestive fluids of the intestine has been deemed its only important function, and physiologists have been content to dismiss it with a few words on the digestive power of pancreatic secretion. More recent studies of the adrenal, thyroid, and other so-called ductless glands, however, and the recognition by surgeons of important pancreatic diseases, have awakened new interest, and the startling propositions of Sajous have placed the study of the pancreas in the very front of the medical stage.

The book now under consideration may well be accepted as an important contribution to this interesting problem, not only on account of the thoroughness with which the subject is treated, but also because of the large amount of original work presented, the painstaking care evidenced in its preparation, and the moderate and judicial manner in which the writer's conclusions are drawn. A glance at the abundant references shows how carefully the preliminary ground has been gone over.

While probably the most absorbing chapters are those dealing with the relation of pancreatic disease to diabetes mellitus,

because of the wide-spread occurrence of the latter and the doubts as to its etiology, of no less importance are the portions devoted to the consideration of fat necrosis, hæmorrhagic and interstitial pancreatitis.

One can hardly fail to be convinced that Dr. Opie has proven the islands of Langerhans to be directly accountable for the regulation of carbohydrate circulation and elimination. He does not discuss the method in which this is accomplished, but he does conclude—logically from the facts as he finds them—that the presence of intact islands in fair numbers means the absence of glycosuria, and, conversely, that their destruction is associated with sugar in the urine. This points conclusively to the presence of an internal secretion and places the pancreas in a sense among the ductless glands. He does not claim that all classes of diabetes are of pancreatic origin, but by proving that many are he paves the way for the broader contention.

His experiments on the causes of hæmorrhagic pancreatitis are hardly less interesting. The limits of a review forbid a detailed description, but his methods seem to prove that cholelithiasis stands in a direct causative relation; a gall-stone impacted in the diverticulum of Vater being sufficient, when the anatomical relations permit, to cause a flow of bile into the pancreatic ducts, with consequent hæmorrhage into the substance of the gland. That this does not occur more often is due to the frequent patency of the lesser duct—that of Santorini.

He recognizes two general varieties of interstitial pancreatitis, an interlobular and an interacinar form,—the latter more often associated with diabetes because of the more frequent invasion of the islands of Langerhans; the former seldom, if ever.

Fat necrosis is treated of at some length, with the conclusion that it is due to the direct action of the pancreatic secretion on fat, the escape of the digestant taking place through the substance of the gland.

The chapters on abnormalities, histology, hyaline degeneration, symptoms, and treatment can only be mentioned.

The author's style is clear, his conclusions convincing, and the type is large and plain. What more need be said?

HENRY GOODWIN WEBSTER.

THE SURGERY OF THE HEAD. By BAYARD HOLMES, B.S., M.D.  
8vo, 569 pp.; 14 plates. New York: D. Appleton & Co.,  
1903.

This volume is evidently the first of a series to appear under the general heading of Surgical Emergencies. It comprises the more frequent, every-day surgical affections of the head, face, and mouth, and is the outcome of many years of close observation, surgical teaching, and operative experience. The various chapters include complete and detailed descriptions of the surgical injuries and diseases of the head, both congenital and acquired. The amount of space given to the discussion of each subject is proportionate to its relative frequency of occurrence or theoretical importance. Carefully selected reports of clinical cases add much to the value of the work.

Throughout, pathology, diagnosis, and proper methods of treatment are the three cardinal features.

The sections on fracture of the skull, cerebral compression, and cerebral localization are particularly comprehensive and instructive.

The author is a believer in the occurrence of cerebral concussion as a distinct pathological condition, and describes it as such.

From cover to cover a clear, pleasing, and concise style is maintained, and the original methods of teaching make the book both unique and valuable as a surgical treatise. There are numerous good illustrations.

It is to be hoped that the remaining numbers of the series on Surgical Emergencies will maintain the same stamp of excellence which the first publication has shown.

WALTER A. SHERWOOD.